

point three

one shilling

May 1970

POINT THREE is the
monthly magazine
of Toc H



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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment: 1. to build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man; 2. to give personal service; 3. to find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others; 4. to work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God. This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

May 1970

On the cover

All pals together at the East and West Surrey Toc H pancake 'Greeze'. This old English custom, in which participants fight for a scrap of a maxi-sized pancake, dates back to the Middle Ages and is a traditional event at Westminster School, London. The man in the dark track-suit with someone's knee in his ear is Ray Fabes, S.E. Regional staff. The evening has a more serious side when members and friends discuss the Surrey projects programme for the coming year. Huw Gibbs' second article about Surrey appears on page 90.

Photo: East Surrey Newspapers Ltd

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Advertising, Display and classified advertisements are included in this magazine. Full rates and data can be obtained from the editorial office.

point three

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Letters and articles are welcomed but the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement

Too bad to be true

I once saw Christian service described, in a parish magazine, as "a kindly attitude towards the poor". That sounds almost too bad to be true, but true I swear it is. Nothing could be further from what we mean when we use the word "service" in Toc H.

We know how often an apparently straightforward request for help can lead on to a continuing concern. Take, for instance, the case of the lady whose husband was dying of cancer. The doctors forecast about three weeks of life but the three weeks dragged out to six months and throughout that time she had to be driven to the hospital daily. Inevitably a large number of volunteers took their turn on the rota of drivers with the result that after her husband's death every time she went out shopping she met familiar faces. One of the volunteer drivers, on her own initiative, arranged for her to join an old people's club. It would be hard to over-estimate the support the lady was given, quite unconsciously, during the period of readjustment.

We know how often what starts out as a job of service develops into a deep and lasting friendship. Take, for instance, the case of the young homosexual, recently discharged from a mental hospital. A couple who shared his interest in Italian art and music were asked to try and ease the transition back into the community. Asked some months later how the young man was getting on, they replied: "What do you mean? He's one of our best friends."

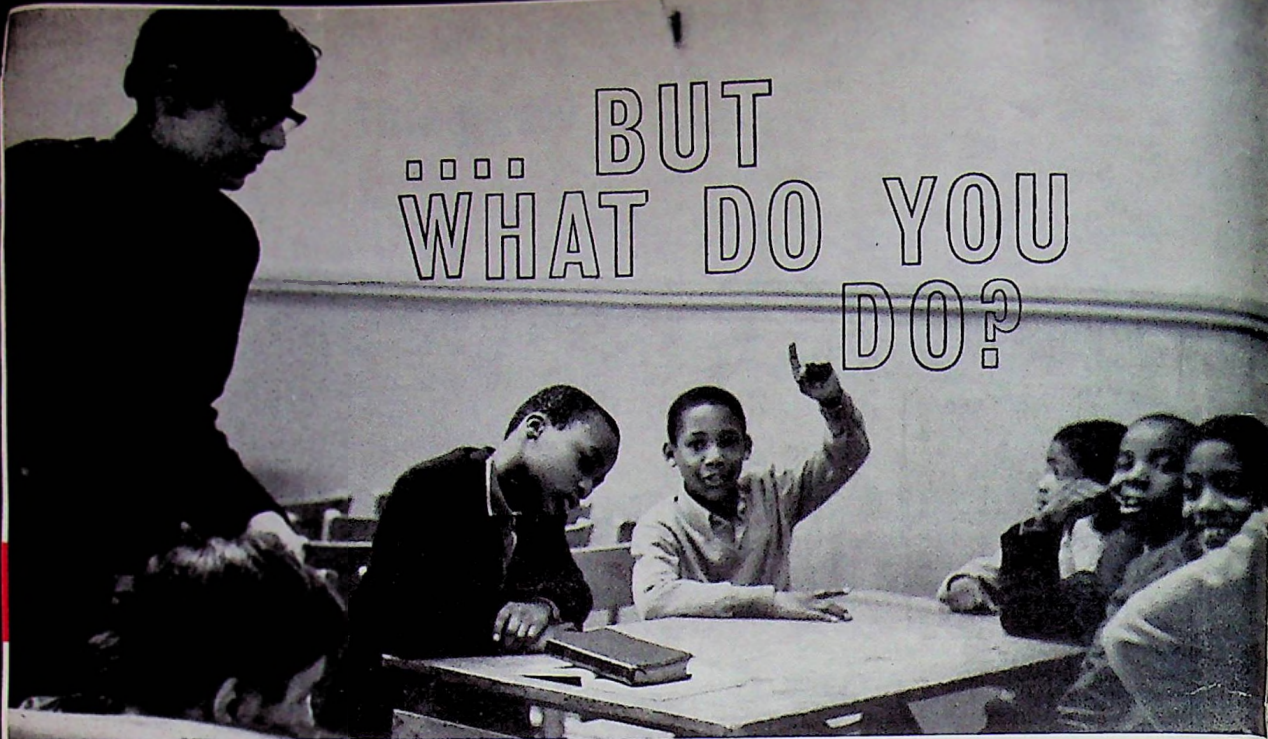
We know how often the dividing line between helper and helped becomes blurred. A volunteer will often gain as much from the relationship as the person he is ostensibly helping. Take, for instance, the case of the old lady who suffered a serious coronary thrombosis. Contrary to expectations she survived, but when she left hospital and returned to the first floor flat where she lived alone she clearly needed a great deal of help. A family in the same street was asked to give

what help they could. There is no doubt that the family's interest has given the old lady a new lease of life, but the relationship is not all one way. It so happens that she has a television set and the family has not, with the result that the children are continually in and out of their adopted "granny's" flat.

All this is very far from the condescension implied in the quotation with which I started. But just to show there are no hard feelings let me add that the three examples I have used are drawn, not from Toc H, but from the "good neighbour" scheme run by the parish whose magazine described service as "a kindly attitude towards the poor".

The organisers of this particular scheme clearly start from the same basic premises as Toc H branches. They recognize that service involves entering into a relationship which may make demands above and beyond the immediate material need: that service can lead to deep, personal friendships; and that service should wherever possible be reciprocal—in other words that the more the line between helper and helped can be blurred the better. But in a report they have recently produced the organisers make an additional point, and one which may not seem so familiar to us. "It has been found," they write, "that there is considerable knowledge which is not being fed back to the local authority departments and those responsible for making policy. If only this gap in communication was less wide, the social services might be able to be more flexible and more relevant to present needs." This may, perhaps, suggest to us that there is a need for closer co-operation between Toc H branches and the statutory social services, to enable us not only to learn from them of needs that we can help to meet, but also to share with them our knowledge of the community and its needs. The effectiveness of both could be improved by this kind of co-operation.

K.P.-B.



For many people, inside the Salvation Army and out, the names Bill Davidson and Joy Webb will mean THE JOY-STRINGS.

But Bill, lead guitarist for the world famous army pop group, and author of this article, is now corps commander of a down town area of South London, backing onto Brixton, one of the toughest districts of London with a high immigrant population.

Few people will have experienced such extremes of Christian service and in this exclusive story he reveals his approach to the job.

One of the most interesting silences comes over any Salvation Army discussion group when some young bright spark asks his Officer (the Army equivalent of the local vicar) exactly what he does on the other six days a week.

It must be stated that the silence comes not because the Officer is frantically scratching his head to remember the last time he did anything, but rather because he does something quite different just about every day. And it's difficult to talk about a life with such a diverse basic pattern.

It all stems from the old phrase that the Field Officer in the Army is, virtually, his "own boss". He has only a little pressure from "up top" (although fellow Officers might disagree on this point). But being one's own boss can mean just about anything. Either the Officer can shirk his way through life just "getting by" with the occasional visit to his people—or he can, on the other hand, become so involved in the community around him that he finds little time to do anything very well.

Neither extreme will do the Officer, nor the Kingdom of God, much good!

When talking of my own life as a Salvation Army Officer one must realise that the last seven years have been, by no means, "run of the mill".

The five years in the Joystings Group took me to many European countries—gave me millions of pounds' worth of TV apparatus to "preach" through—and, inevitably, it changed the boy into what I hope has become the man... and a different man to the one who would be writing this article had the Joystings not happened.

But Joysting life is over, and the man must now attempt to fit into a more normal form of Salvation Army expression—that of being "in the field"—being in charge of a corps or centre.

To explain the situation it is, I'm afraid, helpful to have a bit of S.A. history. You see, the whole idea of Booth's Army has always been to cater for the "whole personality of man". His body, mind, spirit and soul—the respective seats of his physical, mental, emotional and eternal life.

Happy chaos

At first the Army seemed to be one great jumble of activity. But eventually people did "up and organise", and the happy chaos turned into a highly departmentalised international organisation. Each department independent of the others and sometimes even oblivious of the others!

For instance—the Evangelical (or "field") workers, both Officers and lay members alike, soon got into the way of thinking that the work of redeeming the social misfits of this world was not their's but the job of the goodwill or social service departments.

Fortunately, there is now a large body of people who belong to the evangelical wing of the Army and who believe that, while our highest aim is the redemption of a man by his God, our expression of Christ must also entail serving the community in ways that cannot be called directly evangelical.

Yes, the massive Social Services of the Salvation Army are around us, but the "Sunday go to meeting" Salvationist is waking up to his part in the deal as well.

With this in mind, I face Brixton. A mass of houses and a greater mass of people. Some good houses—many bad ones. Some good people—many bad ones!

And all I have is a Hall. One large barn-like place that must serve my worshipping community, and yet (I feel) must also serve the needs of the greater community of our neighbours.

Neighbours such as the miserably poor old folk—the neglected—the handicapped—the disillusioned and jobless immigrant—the child who is Jamaican at home, English at school, and isn't sure the rest of the time!

Firstly, I tell myself, things will take time. And time is something that I, as an Officer likely to be moved after only 18 months at a

centre, haven't much of. But at least I must start in the hope that others will catch the same vision that fires me.

It takes time to win the friendship of the fifty youngsters in the Sunday School (90% of whom are West Indian). It takes time (and money) to start the club for the physically handicapped. It takes time to run the Play Group for the pre-school kiddies—serving the child, helping the mother and most of all letting them know that the "church" isn't quite so inhuman after all!

When I re-read my article, I see that no day-to-day list of events has been mentioned. I still haven't answered the question "what does the Officer do?" But perhaps my article is the answer. My six years of Officership has taken me from an Over Sixties Club in Tooting to the Top Ten Club in the Champs-Élysées. From the Royal Albert Hall to a miners' bingo hall. From a children's home to the Chelsea Centre for Drug Dependents. From hysterical laughter to times of frustration and tears.

So I suppose the ultimate answer is simple. The Salvation Army Officer must know his Saviour—know his world—and introduce the two.

Photos Bob Broeder.

While a lay soldier looks on, Bill organises a table activity for the children.





Letters are welcomed. But the Editor reserves the right to use extracts as space permits.

Associates

One of these days I am sure that Toc H is destined to take a step forward, but when that day will be I don't know. I hope to live till I am 90, so that gives me 40 years physically, but after reading the latest document on Associates I am afraid the forward step will not be in my life time!

Here, after two Central Council meetings and almost two years' deliberations, the committee, whose sincerity I do not for one moment doubt, has made a complete hash of things. (Even our permissive society will not let me use the phrase I would like to.) Here was a wonderful opportunity to make the whole Movement more meaningful to everybody. For the want of a better word, two classes of membership: (1) those who want to be involved all the way: (2) those who want to be involved either materially or financially. The word "involved" is chosen deliberately. It was as simple as that. But no: the committee in its infinite wisdom has to make a FOURTH class of membership. Does the committee really think the genuine Builders or Area members care what they are called? In heaven's name when are we going to realise that it's 1970 and not 1925? Come on, Toc H—wake up!

Allan Hunt

Farnborough, Hants.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the meeting of Central Councillors from the South East Region, on February 28. I particularly regret losing the opportunity of explaining the purpose of the Central Guard of the Lamp with regard to Associates.

Do the South Eastern Region Councillors (of whom I am one) really believe that they should dictate to our many friends outside Toc H what form their association with Toc H should take? Are we so rich that we can say to Builders "become Associates—otherwise you can send your subscription to some other charity?" Have we such a queue of willing helpers that we can say to Volunteers "become

Associates, or take your enthusiasm elsewhere?"

The Guard of the Lamp saw as their clear brief from the Central Council the need to establish a means of recognising in a particular form the very valuable help which so many friends of Toc H give unstintingly; a form of recognition which they could all accept if they so wished. Neither Builders nor Volunteers could embrace many of these helpers, but all can become Associates *if they so wish*. Surely this must be the criterion. The Guard recognised the justifiable pride which Builders and Volunteers might have in their particular form of financial and practical contributions to the Family, and would not be a party to a "straight jacket" approach.

I do not know what arguments, apart from a desire for formality, were advanced at the meeting. The Guard of the Lamp committed its thoughts in writing in a circular sent to all Central Councillors early this year, on the subject of Associates. Perhaps those who disagree might like to commit themselves similarly, preferably by writing to the Guard, so that an informed discussion can take place at the next meeting of the Central Council.

Jack Weber

London

Toc H Properties

As a fairly consistent critic of *Point Three* let me say first how delighted I am to find myself in agreement with most of what you have said in the last few issues. It was particularly refreshing to see the frank revelation of the true cost of the Marks on page 45 for all the membership, few of whom fully understand the published annual accounts, to note and digest.

To my mind the most vital sentence in the correspondence is contained in Geoff's letter—"The membership must be prepared to provide for the Movement it wants". Who is kidding whom? It is true that we must have our visionaries, and well they have served us in the past, but to claim that the

rank and file membership really want the list of goodies catalogued in George's letter is stretching credulity a bit. This is amply shown by the reluctance of most country branches to provide any substantial increase in their giving to the Family Purse over the last few years: we have only been able to do all these things by virtue of the fortuitous (with apologies to Gerry Ashfield) capital gains and legacies, not through the wish of the membership to have them and back them with hard cash. Without these the show-down would have come years ago.

The most constructive contribution to the future of Toc H which our top brains could devise at present would be a bridging of the gulf which still divides "up there" and "down here", so that we may close our ranks and move forward solidly together towards an agreed goal for which we are prepared to pay.

Howard Hall

Westgate-on-Sea

"A moonraker's view"

Reg Coates's Chippenham sounds a very cosy place in which to live. He thanks God that his branch doesn't have to cope with problems of alcoholism and drug addiction (which aren't confined to big cities, by the way) on a large scale. Let us not over-challenge our membership, he says, by asking them to cope with problems which are too big for them.

I'm afraid you Wiltshire lads are still raking the pond for cheese. The population trend from rural to urban areas continues, and it is with the social problems of large conurbations that we are increasingly faced. Toc H cannot hope to solve these problems overnight, but we would ignore them in flagrant disregard of what we stand for. The measures required are not outside our control—in addition to making practical efforts to ameliorate particular needs, the job of Toc H in this and any other social field is, as the editor pointed out in February, to

"prod, probe and pioneer". To those who say the task is impossible, Max Weber once wrote that all historical experience confirms the truth that man would not have attained the possible unless time and again he had reached out for the impossible.

Michael Sherwin

London

Swimming for the handicapped

A friend of mine lent me a copy of *Point Three* (February), so that I could read the article "Why I did that walk". I wondered if you would like to hear my story?

I have suffered from multiple sclerosis since 1938, and after being admitted to hospital to have my second leg "pinned" in 1959, I was very low spirited. After 14 months of care, having several sorts of treatment, all to little avail, I was sent home. My husband was at his wits end to know how to cope but we had a lot of help from relations and friends from church.

Some years ago we were told of a swimming club for people such as me, and as we are willing to try anything, we went along. There we found a wonderful band of people and we were given instruction to keep me afloat. Since then, gradually, I have increased in strength. My legs are quite stiff in the sitting position, but my right hand, which was almost useless, now is able to do many things. I am very fond of cooking and though some of my ways of doing things are rather unorthodox, I think I can rightly be proud of them.

I very much doubt if it would be possible to ride a horse, but I think that swimming has done just what you describe horse-riding doing for other people. I am sure your article will give heart to someone, perhaps inspire a helper: we are so dependant on people who have time and patience to persevere, I only hope that I can show to those who have helped that the job has been worth while.

Jean Heath

London

"We're not as black as we're painted"

I don't think you would want your columns to become a forum for political discussion and argument, but I feel that Dick Perkins' article (March) calls for some reply.

It seems to me that we have now reached the stage in unofficial strikes where all restraint has gone with the

wind: the Unions themselves seem powerless to discipline their own members and resent any attempts by others to do so. Of course we need Unions, but we want Unions which can control their members and negotiate in the proper manner and through the proper channels.

No one seems to realise that the workers pay for each others' wage increases: if the bus conductor gets a rise up go the fares, so the chap going to work on the bus pays more; he then gets a rise to pay for the extra fare and then the bus conductor finds he has to pay more for the goods that his passenger makes and so on *ad infinitum*. It's a free for all in this world today and the weakest go to the wall because they can't blackmail anybody by withdrawing their labour: and I refer in this instance to the retired people on fixed incomes, among which I class myself.

It wouldn't be a bad idea if the Unions really wanted to use their influence in a reasonable way for them to press for better pensions for the many thousands of their ex-members now retired, and also take much more action in regard to the continued increase in the cost of living, instead of always taking the easy way out by agitating for wage increases on every possible occasion.

G. F. Warner

Bourne End, Bucks.

Letter from a stranger

My wife and I, now in our 40's, have come to the conclusion that it is about time we did something useful to help the community, particularly now that the children are off our hands. We may be a little late in coming to this decision but I suppose it's better late than never.

We have known about Toc H for many years and a chance remark to an acquaintance brought an invitation to a Pancake Greeze. The invitation was directed at me in the first instance but my host added "you can bring the wife if you like". I thought this remark a bit odd at the time because I automatically assumed that my wife could come with me.

We attended the Greeze and in the space of two hours we saw many facets of Toc H life—the fellowship of men and women (young and old) meeting together: the fun of the pancake scramble: we heard about the projects which were being undertaken during the forthcoming summer and we learnt about the Bordon Company. We

were also able to buy literature, which we read later with interest.

We both came to the same conclusion—that Toc H was for us. So we contacted our acquaintance and told him that we wished to join the local branch.

You would have thought we had asked for the moon!

Our friend who up till now had been pleased with our enthusiasm suddenly became hesitant. "Well," he said, "you know it is a *men's* branch? But there's a joint branch—seven miles away." But, we insisted, we wanted to join the *local* branch. Our friend showed embarrassment so we pressed our point. What about the young people of Mobile Action, we asked, how are they integrated into the main Movement? And this is 1970, we continued, isn't it a bit old-fashioned that one sex branches still remain in existence?

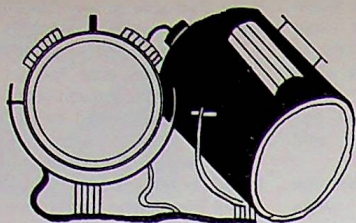
So, dear Editor, what can we do? We like young people and we are anxious to meet and work with men and women who care for the community in which they live as well as being members of a forward looking organisation. But the Toc H door seems closed. What is the answer?

Jack

The above was sent to us by Cecil Rogers of Surbiton, Surrey, who said: "This letter is entirely fictitious, but it's something that could happen—and perhaps has already happened!"

Don't Forget

Angus Ogilvy needs YOUR help in publicising his appeal for Toc H on Sunday, May 24 on Radio 4 (all regions) at 7.25 pm.



spotlight on Knight Thorpe



Knight Thorpe is a joint branch, with members ranging in age from 26 to 73. Their meeting room was once a pigsty but you'd never guess that now. In 1965 the members started work on the job of converting the shells of two old sheds—a job which took them two years. The attractive room which is the result of this hard work is now used for Guide meetings and church activities as well as for the weekly branch meetings.

The branch's energies are directed into two main activities. The first is their concern for Thorpe Hall, an old people's home where the branch runs a regular rota to man the home's library, as well as arranging outings. Our photo shows some of the 56 people who were given a coach tour and tea last summer.

The second activity is the aftermath of the 1968 Soar Valley District project. Half the money raised at that time came to the Family Purse. The other half was used for the purchase of the four wheelchairs pictured here being tried out by members of the branch. Since then five additional wheelchairs have been donated and all nine are loaned out free of charge.

Photos Rupert Abbs



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Ken Prideaux-Brune

building a sense of community

Social work seems to be as much subject to the tides of fashion as other areas of life. The current 'in' phrase is community development, which has now received the blessing of the bureaucrats in the form of favourable mention in several government reports. The danger, of course, is that a fashionable phrase may be used to cover a variety of different meanings. It is worthwhile, before this happens with community development, to consider what the phrase really means, especially as the concepts which lie behind it have a great deal in common with the beliefs of Toc H.

The starting point, I suppose, is the recognition by the planners that community doesn't just happen. The right conditions for its growth have to be provided. "The task of building new communities is not finished when its houses, work and shops have been provided," says a government report entitled *The Needs of New Communities*¹ and the report adds: "To build houses without parallel provision of community facilities and amenities will result in the unnecessary creation of social problems". Too often in the past these apparently obvious and elementary principles have been ignored and the result has been the arid, lifeless housing estates, whose residents are suffocated by loneliness and boredom.

However, the provision of facilities is not by itself enough. The report recommends that all new towns should appoint social relations officers, as many have in fact done, to undertake the task of community development, which the report defines as "the processes by which the efforts of people themselves are united with those of authorities to improve the social and cultural life of communities".

The need for community development is not confined to the new towns and the importance of this kind of approach is stressed in the well-written and far-sighted

report of the Youth Service Development Council, *Youth and Community Work in the 70's*². Community development, says the YSDC, "should be sharply distinguished from 'community provision' which is the term for the buildings, centres and facilities provided by institutions and organisations for people, into which they are expected to fit".

The YSDC point out that only if everyone, rather than just the privileged few, has the opportunity of being involved in making decisions can society become responsive to them and reflect their values. The fact that we have entered, willingly or unwillingly, a period of rapid and continuous change makes this responsiveness particularly important. If the individual is prevented from taking part in the decision-making process he is likely to become, says the YSDC, "at best apathetic and indifferent, at worst cynical, nihilistic and anarchic".

The individual, as well as society, stands to benefit from what the YSDC calls "the active society". One of the ways in which people have the chance of growing to maturity is through the exercise of responsibility but in our society this opportunity is open to too few. "For many their only political decision is to hand over the decision-making to others. In industrial settings mass-production efficiency is too often happiest with controlled robots deciding nothing for themselves except the decision to be acquiescent—both on and off the production lines... A society in which all can make more and more decisions about more and more things is a more mature society than one in which this exercise of responsibility is reserved for the chosen few (no matter how democratically elected)."

This vision of an active society will not be easy to translate into reality. Many will say that it is impossible, a dream that could only be realised in a tribal society, in which everyone knows everyone else. In our complex world, it is said, one can only elect the decision-makers, and then give them the freedom to get on with the job. This reduction of democracy to a system for the peaceful transfer of power makes a plausible argument. In fact, however, community development workers, both in new towns and in decaying urban areas, have proved that it is possible for people to take responsibility for helping to shape the decisions which affect their lives; have proved that it is possible to build community in our modern urban environment.

One obvious requirement if community development is to be successful is an end to the secrecy behind which too many government decisions, local and national, are hidden. If democracy is to mean more than an occasional visit to the polling booth the

1. HMSO 1967 9s

2. HMSO 1969 15s

ordinary citizen must be kept fully informed about the intentions of the town hall, not as a public relations exercise after all the decisions have been taken but at a stage when public discussion can still influence the final decision. If this is to happen there will be no room for the kind of attitude summed up in the YSDC's comment on educational establishments: "there are still too many institutions and offices where the arrival of a single parent is a threat, the arrival of a group an insurrection".

The community development worker requires both considerable skill and considerable self-restraint. His task is not to help people, but to help them to help themselves: not to persuade them to do what he thinks they ought to do, but to make it possible for them to do what they want to do. The directive, paternalistic approach is very much easier, but it can never provide the same opportunity for the individual to grow towards his full potential as a free, responsible human being.

The increasing acceptance of the concept of community development should be an encouragement to Toc H because it is based on respect for the human personality. However, it is important to be clear about its implications, since the community development label may well come to be adopted by some who see it as an effective means by which manipulation may be camouflaged. Community development will lead to increased public debate; it will demand an end to the obsessive secrecy of some town halls; and it will almost certainly lead at times to organised opposition to current local auth-

ority policies. People's assessment of their own needs may well differ sharply from the assessment of the "experts".

The adoption of this kind of approach will also have implications in areas other than that of public policy. The YSDC report is concerned particularly with the youth service, but the sentence quoted in it, from the evidence submitted by the National Union of Students, has a wider application: "However much lip service may be paid to the idea of young people challenging the accepted values of the community, there is an underlying complacency that these values are, in themselves, absolute and beyond challenge". Toc H has always claimed that its function is to enable people to discover their own values and convictions out of the experience that Toc H offers. So long as people draw from this experience the conclusions we want them to draw, all is well. If, however, they reach conclusions very different from ours, then the temptation to try and limit their freedom is strong. In an age of ever-increasing change we are likely to find ourselves frequently challenged to reconsider what once seemed unshakeable convictions.

Community development carries inevitable risks. As the YSDC says, "those who want nothing more than a quiet life should think again". For Toc H, unless it is to forego its claim to enable the individual to develop to his full potential, there is no choice. We must continue to pursue what has become known as the community development approach, accepting, indeed welcoming, the attendant risks. There is no life without risks.

welcome point

The following new branch was formally recognised by the Central Executives at their March meeting: Bakewell (j).

The following branches elected new members during the month:

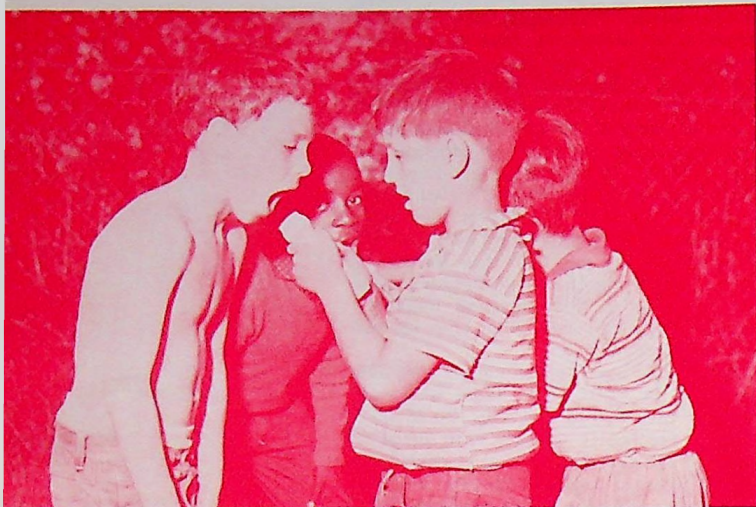
- | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|----------------|
| 14—Lampeter (j) | 8—Harefield (j) | 6—Criccieth (m) | 5—Bakewell (j) |
| Singapore (w) | 4—Houghton le Spring (w), Ormesby (j), Stamford (w) | | |
| 3—Alston (m), Bala (m), Bourne End (w), Nantwich & Crewe (m), Newport (Mon. (m)) | | | |
| 2—Durrington (w), Edgmond (j), Ladhope (m), Oadby (j), Ramsgate (w), Rushden Royal (w), Saughall (w), Seal (m), Sevenoaks (w), Welling (m), West Worthing (w), Wigmore (w) | | | |
| 1—Acton (w), Bognor Regis (m), Burraton (m), Camberwell & Dulwich (m), Carshalton & Wallington (w), Chirk (m), Colchester (w), Crewe & Nantwich (w), Ealing (w), Eastbourne (j), Felpham (m), Fulham (m), Griffithstown (m), Hartley Wintney (m), Holme Valley (w), Ickenham & Uxbridge (w), Kettering (w), Keynsham (m), Netherhall (w), Oatlands (m), St. Annes (m), Sevenoaks (m), Sheerness (w), Tavistock (m), Totnes (m), Uckfield (m), Wolverton (m), Wootton Bassett (m) | | | |

117 new members were elected during March, to whom we extend a warm welcome.



HUW GIBBS

SURREY TWO



right in the middle

"I am now convinced that Christianity is about people *living* their lives, with the Christian living his own life to the full, involving himself in the community and thus helping others to *live* their lives as well."

A volunteer in Surrey.

There are those unexpected moments on any project which, without care beforehand, could frighten off for good the well-intentioned volunteer. Describing just such an incident a medical technician told me, "... and there I was right in the middle". A more suitable explanation of projects in Surrey would be hard to find because it so

admirably describes their reasons for involving people and also the volunteers' own insistence on efficient organisation. To accumulate a mailing list of 1,000 people, you must be right in the middle.

Although some project leaders are not Toc H members, Rodney Broomfield explained that each group of volunteers, at some point during the project, will hear about the purpose of Toc H and will receive literature outlining the obligation of full membership. Those serving on the main committee make a point of visiting each work area to deal with any queries arising from discussions about the Movement.

Picking leaders is one of the first tasks of the main committee once projects have been agreed for the ensuing year. In addition a circular letter describing the projects is sent out to a carefully maintained volunteer mailing list and the projects co-ordinator in London is notified. Wrong leadership can mean a project ruined, and so the well-trying pattern of organisation in Surrey includes suggestions for the composition of sub-committees for each work area. As a rule these comprise the leader and an assistant, one local member, a representative of the main committee and always a non-Toc H person. They are entirely responsible for introducing themselves to the agency they will be assisting, arranging accommodation and deciding their own budgets. These arrangements must be completed by the time the main committee meets again in April. One of the most impressive things about operations is the speed and the calm way in which major changes in people's lives are accepted, almost expected.

A girl who was once incredibly shy and, at best, doubtful about the value of Christianity, is now acknowledged as one of the better products of the experiment and confesses that "Toc H has given me the opportunity to try out Christianity in practice instead of just thinking and talking about it in an intellectual way, which didn't seem to get me very far. I still feel agnostic about many points of doctrine—I don't know what God is, or in what sense Christ was God—but at least I do believe that the way of life which Christ taught is the right one".

And another who claims that it gave him the self-confidence he once lacked, and that the joy of seeing others enjoying themselves had led him to give up his civil service job to become the assistant warden at a residential boys' club. He is now attending a College of Education to train as a teacher and youth leader. The changes are

not always so dramatic, there is a manager of an off-licence shop who told me that involvement with Toc H had taught him that "if you wait for THEM to do something you will wait for ever, but if WE decide to do it we can achieve miracles".

The statutory bodies were not slow to respond to the offer of voluntary help and in 1969 projects were undertaken at Frimhurst, a recuperative home for families in difficulties; in Sussex, where a camp was run for mentally handicapped children; and Manor Hospital, Epsom, assisting the medical staff. This year a new idea is the holiday at Dor Knap for semi-handicapped members of Toc H, started as a result of the volunteers themselves saying, "We've done a lot for other people, how about giving a holiday to those handicapped members who serve others all the year round?"

Just about the time you will be reading this over 1,000 circulars will be plopping onto doormats all over the county, outlining the year's activities and canvassing support. Sponsorship is suggested rather than contributions and linked to the appeal are branch and group fund raising efforts. This method has resulted in the bulk of the money needed, over £1,000, being raised publicly. A weekend conference to complete the finer details is arranged in May, for which the volunteers pay from their own pockets: "You must remember", Rodney explained, "that some of them will be doing a professional job". No chances are taken that would endanger a project or Toc H, and the chairman's personal notebook contains reminders like . . . adequate insurance cover . . . spare bedding and clothes . . . if in doubt obtain free from

infection certificates . . . headed notepaper is more efficient . . . don't forget thank-you letters.

Is it all worth it? Can we make a lasting impression on people this way? The best answer to this is to let the volunteers speak for themselves.

" . . . one of the greatest pleasures to me is the warm welcome we still get from the old lady who was our first visit. It is a real friendship. Thank God for Toc H."

" . . . The way some of the boys showed me up about the Bible. To think that such an 'orrible little 'erb could be so near to God."

" . . . Toc H has taught me to expect people to accept me as I am, so that it is unnecessary to put on any act, or to be shy and afraid of being rejected. This is perhaps part of what Christ meant by 'love your neighbour as yourself'."

" . . . I now have a self-formulated set of morals, principles and feelings because I have had the chance to learn and experience things for myself without having to be taught."

" . . . Toc H has given me more confidence in myself than I would ever have obtained elsewhere."

" . . . Probably the chance to call myself a Christian attracted me as well, and I went around telling everybody I was one. Of course, I wasn't and still don't know if I am or not . . . I got fed up with everything in Toc H and thought that people were in it for the wrong reasons. But I always clung to the thought that the idea was right."

" . . . I think that no two people should have exactly the same definition of Toc H and that anyone who says, 'I know all about Toc H', is talking nonsense!"

Photos: Pat Thomas.



Naturally, in five years of rapid development there has been a very exciting spin-off of other activities. Ray Fabes reports three marriages of group members last year and a wide variety of social events has been added to the Surrey diary, like the revived pancake greeze, shown on this month's cover. Perhaps more to the point is the challenge presented to the older members and the acceleration of interest in ideas of renewal. Nearly all the volunteer leaders are now members, although some have taken five years to make up their minds. Half of the national projects this year will be led by volunteers groomed in Surrey. Adrian Dudman, now a member of staff in the north and responsible for spearheading the Washington project, started out as a Surrey camp committee member. Five members holding District office are under 25 and there is an astonishing growth of young groups, which outstrips any other part of the country.

All of them are deeply committed to Toc H principles but few accept traditional patterns of branch behaviour, even though they acknowledge those for whom Light and ceremonies have purpose and meaning. One member told me that jealousy, greed, self-

gratification have all been banished in this "working together", and to the question "what have the past five years meant to you?", he answered, "they have taught me to be a better Christian".

Surrey has finally said goodbye to the old viewpoint that claims Toc H should always be serene and not heard. It will never be the same again there. But what I see is a spirit which can only be recaptured today by reading through the early copies of the *Toc H Journal* and those who agonise about change should remember the words of Tubby — "an Institution is a Movement which has ceased to move". Faith must look forward to its objective and never backwards towards its roots.

NEXT MONTH

Work with vagrants, with "unattached" young men, with children and with gypsies is outlined in the first of two articles on Mark VI, Birmingham.

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IAN RUSSELL

When it comes to interests, Ian Russell, the new Secretary for Toc H in Scotland, certainly hasn't let any grass grow beneath his feet. In addition to training as a weaver of Harris tweed, obtaining his Master Mariner's certificate after 10 years in the Merchant Navy, completing a teacher training course and organising community services for the county of Sutherland, he confides that among his hobbies are ski-ing, hill walking, teaching navigation and Gaelic conversation classes!

Ian is 38 years old, married with three children, although we cannot imagine where he found the time. He studied for his teaching diploma at Moray House, Edinburgh, where he also took a course in youth and community work. After a spell as County Organiser he moved into Lauder Technical College, Dunfermline, where he worked as the full-time youth leader. He is an Elder in the Church of Scotland and assists at a number of youth and social work groups.

His address is 89 Forbes Drive, Glenrothes, Fife.

ISABELL CAMPBELL

Isabell Campbell, recently appointed to the honorary staff in Scotland, is a housewife with two school age daughters. Although still in her thirties she has been a member of Paisley branch for 14 years. During this time she has held practically every office, and is at present chairman of the branch.

LEN SCARFE

Len and Ethel Scarfe have moved from Gladstone House, Liverpool, to become warden and housekeeper of Mark XX, Putney, in succession to Leonard Doudney, who has left the staff.

Dor Knap Open Day. As usual Spring Bank Holiday (Monday, May 25) will be Open Day at Dor Knap. This is always a popular gathering and Tommy Trinder hopes that this year's numbers will break all records. Bring your own sandwiches. Light refreshments available. Entertainment will be provided by, among others, the Llwynegrin Singers from Mold in North Wales and a group of young people from Notts. and Derby Area. Tommy Trinder tells us that "any further contributions from branches or individual members willing to entertain will be gladly received". Offers to Tommy at Dor Knap.

The garden of "Everlands", home of Lord and Lady Colgrain at Bayleys Hill on the road from Sevenoaks to Ide Hill, will be open to the public on Sunday, May 31, from 2 to 6 pm, on behalf of the Toc H Special Appeal. Entrance 2s. Chartwell, Knole, Penshurst Place and Hever Castle are all within a few miles of Sevenoaks.

Bill Williams has been appointed as a member of the honorary staff in Wales and a profile of him will appear next month. His address is: Isfryn, Bethania, Llanon, Cardiganshire.

Thank you. So many people have written me kind letters but I trust that by the time this gets into print I shall have been able to reply personally. One "thank you", however, can only be expressed through these columns. That is to members who have shown me such kindness and hospitality as I travelled round the country during my term as General Secretary of the Women's Association. I counted it a great privilege to be entertained in private homes and would like to express my deep appreciation to all my hosts and hostesses. The past 4 years have been a very rich period for me in making friends and I look forward to renewing acquaintances at the Festival.

Vera Harley



300 YEAR OLD TRADITION REVIVED

Chulmleigh branch have been asked to take over the management of Godsland Cottage and to continue a tradition of service to the young people of the village that dates back to the 17th century. This new responsibility is seen not only as a valuable contribution to the life of the local community but also as a way of making contact with a new generation. Branch member Sidney Thichener told us something of the fascinating history of this old building:

"On February 7, 1659, the house was conveyed to a certain John Bury the Younger and 13 other Trustees and these worthies used the premises, which bore the lovely name of Godsland Cottage, for the benefit of the boys and men of Chulmleigh. The welfare use of the premises continued down the years and in 1808, when Napoleon was rampaging over Europe and shaking his fist at Britain, Godsland Cottage obtained another set of Trustees. For the next 100 years the social activities of the house carried peacefully on. One can imagine apprentices to trades long since disappeared, and yeomen and

labourers, attending there in such spare time as they had, to play games and to discuss the topics of the day.

"More than two and a half centuries had passed since John Bury's day when, at the end of the first world war, the Board of Charity Commissioners made an Order authorising the then Trustees to sell the house. At an auction sale Godsland Cottage became the property of a local auctioneer, Charles John Hannaford. In 1922 Mr. Hannaford gave the house in memory of his son, who had been killed in the war, and it became known as the Chulmleigh Literary and Scientific Institute. The management committee provided relaxation for the members of the Institute and facilities for games, particularly the playing of billiards.

"Recently the Trustees have been much concerned by the lack of use of the Institute but now it has been agreed that it will be managed by the Chulmleigh branch of Toc H, which will again make the games and social facilities available, still under the title of the Chulmleigh Literary and Scientific Institute. It is felt that this will give a boost to the social life of the district, and the local branch of Toc H, which has but recently been given its Lamp after some years of inactivity, is most grateful to the Trustees for this opportunity of continuing the work of Godsland Cottage."

SQUARE ONE

Reading through back numbers of the Toc H Journal we have been struck by the number of times that views apply to Toc H today.

Indeed some would be considered revolutionary by any standards. **Square One** will be a regular item including the best of these quotations.

"The supreme issue of the world today is colour . . . Are we content to believe that the law of the jungle, conquering hate with hate, is the solution, or, indeed, any solution at all?"

Tubby—Toc H Journal, February 1925.



Residents of Talbot House, Trinity Square and friends from a nearby handicapped club turned out in force for the now well-known "Great Bridges Walk" for charity. The route means crossing every bridge from London to Kew and ranks among the most gruelling of them all. Our pictures show: Running repairs en route and Les and Molly Wheatley. Les is Assistant General Secretary at H.Q.

Photos: Sian Dinnen.

Marathon table tennis

Hartley Wintney Mobile Action group have been raising funds through a 48 hour table tennis marathon. Four players took part, two playing while the other two rested. Over 380 games were completed during the 48 hours "without undue fatigue," according to *Point Three* correspondent, Alan Ellis, "although one member reported seeing spots, rather than a ball, before his eyes towards the end". Whether their table

tennis skill has improved as a result of all this practice is not recorded but the group's funds benefited to the extent of £30. The proceeds will be used in connection with several of the group's projects—work with the children at a nearby gypsy resettlement camp; transport costs for working weekends at Le Court Cheshire Home; and the purchase of tools required for gardening jobs for local elderly people.

Visitor restarts Lusaka branch

When Evelyn Wearing of Ulverston branch went to Zambia to visit her son she naturally asked headquarters for the addresses of Toc H members there, but she can hardly have imagined that this would lead to the restart of Toc H in Lusaka. This, however, is what happened. The first Toc H meeting in Lusaka for nearly two years was held to welcome her. The meeting was attended by five women and two men—all Africans—who decided to form a joint unit. A further meeting attracted two more former members, and one of the men said he had talked to a young man who would like to join, and had offered to act as secretary to the group.

Swansong fashion show

Margery Surtees

Hild District, being almost unique in that it has no male members of Toc H, decided that its last effort before complete integration should be a truly feminine one.

We approached the Hartlepool Co-operative Society with a request for a fashion show and this they agreed to put on. We hired the Town Hall and with the very willing help of all branches the necessary arrangements were quickly made.

So it came about that on a cold March evening, with the snows of winter still lingering, over 500 feminine hearts were cheered by a "Spring Ensemble", delightfully displayed among pleasing floral arrangements, the handiwork of our members.

The result? . . . The first hint of spring for us and a donation of £100 to the family purse.

Well, I'll be doggoned!

A woman recently walked into Clacton branch member Gordon Minshall's chemist shop and handed over £25 for the branch's guide dog for the blind fund.

The fund now stands at over £1,250 which means that they have bought five guide dogs. The fifth dog, named Lucky, has also been adopted by the children of Jaywick primary school.

WORK COMPLETED SO COMMITTEE DISBANDS

Earlier this year the committee of Friends of Meadow Cottage, a nursing home for severely handicapped children at Overstrand near Cromer, in Norfolk, was able to disband itself because the home is now well-established. This brings to a successful conclusion nearly four years work by a committee whose chairman has been Arthur Harrold, of Cromer branch, and which includes another member of Cromer branch, Bill Threlfall.

Meadow Cottage was formerly a guest house and was purchased for its present purpose by the Sembal Trust in April, 1966. The home can accommodate 15 children, ranging in age from babies to teenagers. One bed is reserved for children coming on a short-term basis to enable their parents to have a break.

The committee of Friends has raised the sum of £3,400 to help pay off the loan made by the bank to enable the necessary alterations to be made to the building. Contributions have been made by men and women members of

Toc H from Mundesley, Mildenhall, North Walsham and Sheringham. Cromer men's branch undertook the gardening until the home was able to employ a part-time gardener. A TV set, a record player and a spin drier were given through the good offices of a member of the Broad District and ladies from Peterborough and Wisbech gave children's clothes. Arthur Harrold comments: "It will be seen that enlisting the interest of Toc H was of immense value in putting Meadow Cottage on its feet."

£40 for Family Purse

Joe Eversden

Newbury women's branch raised £76 10s. by special efforts in the year ended March 1970. Of this, £40 has been allocated to the Family Purse and £15 to the Toc H Area caravan at Wallingford. The balance was shared between a local hospital lift appeal, Christmas parcels and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

When the Tolworth branch ambulance burst into flames (*Point Three, September 1969*) the driver leaped from his cab and immediately began rescuing the passengers. He was personally responsible for bringing to safety five elderly people, an act which meant climbing back into the blazing bus each time. For his outstanding bravery, Mr. John L. Fox was presented with the Carnegie Hero Trust Fund honorary certificate by the Mayor of Kingston, Alderman Cyril Johnson. John Fox is not a member of Toc H and commenting to *Point Three* the branch regretted that they did not also receive an invitation to the ceremony so that they could thank him publicly. We do just that on their behalf.

Photo: The Surrey Comet.



PARTY FOR THE BLIND



Branches in Exmouth have organised this party for blind people of the district for over 15 years. This year there were about 80 guests and two guide dogs, who enjoy it as much as everyone else. In the centre of our photograph is Mr. H. G. Evett, Chairman of the Urban District of Exmouth, and his wife. Many of the blind present attend weekly handicraft classes and Toc H branches stage an annual exhibition and sale of their work. The money is donated back to the classes so that they can continue each year.

Photo: Richard Terr.

A home for the handicapped

Myra Williams

Wolverhampton women's branch recently had a talk from a young lady, Miss Betty Elliott, who, with her friend, Miss Joy Edwards, is about to launch an exacting but rewarding project. She has decided to give up her job as a health visitor, buy a house in Wolverhampton and make a home for a few severely handicapped people. The first resident will be a 30 years old spastic, who is unable to feed or dress himself and spends much of his life in bed. At present he is looked after by his 70 years old mother, who, it is hoped, will also move in.

The two young ladies are about half-way towards raising the £9,000 needed to buy the house. The Wolverhampton women's branch made a small donation and also promised to give practical help once the house is open.

Death of a cliché

One cliché from which the death-rattle is audible is "You're not just merely a cog in the machine." Nowadays we're five dots on a computer card.

New job for Cardiff women

Not long ago the members of the Cardiff women's branch were feeling that the larger and more adventurous jobs, such as those undertaken by the Volunteers and by the Cardiff Action group, were beyond them. They feel this way no longer. They have become involved with Dyfrig House, a rehabilitation centre for men, run by the South Wales and Monmouthshire Association for Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. "The men are well cared for and self-sufficient in many ways," writes *Point Three* correspondent Ethel Davey, "but there is no one to do the mending, sew on buttons, fix curtains, etc." There are a host of practical ways in which the branch members can help at Dyfrig House and, as a result, come to know and help the men who live there.

Definition

A yes-man is a yes-sir man who's been promoted.

Holiday bungalow in Cornwall

Cornwall is far from any large urban communities and is unlikely to experience the problems associated with them. Consideration of their own problems to the exclusion of those of others is not, however, a Cornish characteristic and Cornish members have been considering how best to make use of an opportunity which will make it possible for people to get away for a time into the Cornish countryside.

For several years Perranporth branch has met in premises erected by a former member and originally intended for use as a bungalow. When the member died he left the premises to the branch. Towards the end of last year the Perranporth branch decided to close and, although the nearest branch is 15 miles away, the Mid- and West Cornwall Joint Districts took over responsibility for the building. They intend to use the premises for meetings, training weekends and as a holiday

centre for members from all parts of the country.

For holiday purposes the premises can conveniently accommodate a party of six—eight at the most. They comprise a large main room, double bedroom, bathroom and kitchen, with mains water and electricity. An electric water heater is being installed and the women on the committee are determined that there shall soon be carpets, new curtains and loose covers.

The intention is not just to provide a centre from which members and their friends can enjoy everything the Cornish countryside has to offer. The committee hopes that the bungalow will be used by those branches who know of families, or not too severely handicapped people, to whom they would like to offer a holiday at reasonable cost in quiet surroundings. Details can be obtained from: Miss A. R. Chalmers, Cleveland, Duporth Bay, St. Austell.

TWO STAR AWARD FOR YORK FILM UNIT

The film *In as much* shot by Stan Cooke and Frank Turner at the Church of England children's home in York has won a Two Star award in *The Movie-makers' Ten Best* competition for 1970. This was their second entry in four years—and their second award. As mentioned in our March issue the York

branch films can be made available on loan to other branches. Requests to Stan Cooke, 134 Askham Lane, Acomb, York YO2 3HR.

Toc H not attractive enough

Johnnie MacMillan, Northern Regional staff, visited Kettering recently and told over 100 members that Toc H needed to make itself more attractive to the general public. He referred to the number of people, especially younger people, who were very willing to offer their time and services to the Movement—if only local Toc H branches could gain their attention—and more important, an act of commitment to the community.

A busy year for Leicester Mark

At Mark XI, Leicester, "more work has been achieved in the last year than ever before", according to a report submitted to the Leicester Youth Organisations Committee. The main work has been for the elderly—painting and decorating, doing odd jobs and chopping and distributing firewood. Other work includes help with flag days and one Marksman, according to the report, "has been teaching 20 children of different races, aged from eight to twelve, the deaf and dumb sign language".

Hot dogs and slides at reunion

Peterborough branch recently held a reunion for the 22 children for whom the branch arranged a holiday at Skegness last summer. Hot dogs, cakes and ices were served and slides of the camp brought yells of laughter from the children.

District Correspondent Dick French also tells us that three of the smallest branches in the District—Dogthorpe, Westwood and Stanground—are meeting together for a three month trial period. "This is proving a success in many different ways," says Dick. "Since meeting together we have gained three new members."

GUIDE BOOK FOR THE DISABLED

Falmouth will soon have a guide book for its disabled residents, thanks to the local Toc H branch. Members have already written to their local papers asking for co-operation from everybody approached by the survey teams gathering information for the book. They will be helped by the Cornwall County Association for the Care of the Disabled; the guide book will be one of a national series.

The main purpose of the guide will be to help the disabled person towards complete independence. The branch hopes that it will also be useful to visitors.

See how they run!

Thumbing through a house magazine reporting the annual sports day, our eye lit on this:

"Mrs. Smith won the women's hammer-throwing event by hurling the hammer 75 feet. Mr. Smith won the 100-yard sprint."

IT'S BRITISH

Last month we referred to the work done by Streatham branch at the Royal Home. It should have been the British Home and Hospital for Incurables. Our apologies.



The man at the centre of this workers playtime is Toc H member Ron Carpenter who, with branch members and volunteers from Portsmouth Polytechnic, has been re-decorating one of the annexes to St. Mary's Institute, Fratton. The students are left to right: Joe Nutman, Malcolm Scobie (studying zoology), Janet Horsley (geography), Bob Fagg (general science), Alan Parton (geography), Malcolm Alison (biology).

Photo: Portsmouth Newspapers Ltd.



Professional entertainer Brian Lees of Lutterworth hands a cheque for £85 to Milly Masters, a Melton Toc H member and representative of the Maltby & District Mentally Handicapped Children's Building Fund. A fun-show lasting an hour, which included several special road safety items, was performed twice during the day and huge crowds of children were held enthralled as Brian went through a wide variety of conjuring tricks and glove puppetry acts. The money will be given to boost the Fund's appeal for £10,000.

The Grantham Journal.



Every year the Orlando African branch of Toc H distributes food parcels to the elderly and needy in Soweto, Johannesburg. Nelson Botile, Orlando branch chairman is on the left of this picture taken for *The Compass* by Jerry N. Nhlapo.

picture point

The fact that Broxbourne branch has 12 members only did not deter them from launching an appeal for a mini-bus for the local handicapped. This being the year of "H" registration they also managed to pull off the most exclusive event of the year by obtaining the number plate TOC 978H. They claim that it was after very devious negotiations on their behalf by Birmingham Toc H members. The dedication was performed by The Rev. Gandon of St. Pauls, Hoddesdon and then named "Tubby" by Mr. Bob Holloway, G.C. (right), standing in for the Founder Padre at the launching ceremony. "Tubby's" first official engagement was to take its name-sake to Alison House, where "Tubby" (the walking, talking version that is) is spending a short holiday after a recent illness.

Photo: James Wallace.



Toc H Volunteer Erica Rawlinson has sent us these first impressions of life in Thailand, where she is teaching under the auspices of VSO.



Illustration: Malcolm King

I can still hardly believe I'm actually here, although now I'm an old timer of two months, and I walk past palm trees without a blink, and eat small roasted birds with aplomb, and things with tentacles without a murmur! At first it all seemed incredible, and the change was so abrupt and so fast, having flown out. We left Heathrow on a summer afternoon, then suddenly it was Zurich at sunset, Rome in the night and Karachi at dawn—where the earth was all brown and bare, and the temperature 80° even at dawn, and everything smelt different and foreign. Then slap into the afternoon monsoon heat of Bangkok—some heat too, you'd need to spend a couple of hours in Kew Gardens palm house to get the idea, it was so steamy and sticky. We were garlanded with jasmine and then driven in a crazy bus (but then all buses here are crazy, rattling and driven at breakneck speed) into the city, through all the real live palm trees and strange smells, and people everywhere, and paddy fields with oxen and canals with water lilies, to the luxury of the air-conditioned hotel where we spent the first

week. We were then scattered to our projects, and that really did feel quite lonely, after being together during training and in Bangkok too.

I'm in the very eminent position of being a highly respected (and I hope, dignified!) lecturer (*ajarn*) at Chulalongkora University Bangkok, which is a splendid place architecturally (with colonnades, porticoes and pillars of cream, and brilliant orange and green glazed tiled roofs) and academically, being the oldest, largest university in Thailand. It is in beautiful grounds, full of palm trees and lawns, lily ponds and exotic flowering shrubs. It's so different from an English university too: everyone wears uniform and is incredibly smart and neat, and the *ajarns* are held in highest honour—all the students *wai* (a sort of bow with hand together as if praying) when we pass and bow down when they present their work. It's so funny too, being translated into such glory—I can't get over lecturing. I've been doing that three times a week and it certainly takes a lot of preparation—all about public speaking, stress and intonation, rhythm, voice production, writing speeches

and organising ideas, etc. I've also had to give talks to the *ajarns* on higher education in England at a special luncheon, and write articles, and take part in a seminar on family life, speaking in the auditorium, with a microphone, which was quite alarming!

Like home

One of the best things is that I'm living with a most super family—they simply couldn't be better. For a week I was in a highly impersonal ultra modern mini-flat in a hostel for *ajarns*—really plush, but terribly lonely: I never spoke to a soul from leaving the faculty until next morning, and the tropical evenings really are long! Now they aren't long enough! The family is huge, about 30 people in the house, which is real Thai style, half brick and half wooden, basically there is *Khur Paaw* (a headmaster) and *Khur Maal* (father and mother) and their five children, then cousins, and 15 students, relatives and friends from up country, and then all the servants and their children, and the dogs! The children are great, aged 9 to 17, and we have hilarious Thai/English evenings, sitting on the verandah or in the courtyard with everyone joining in, and Ma Erb (Mother Earth!), the oldest servant, sitting in a corner chewing betel nut and cackling, and the dogs romping and everyone chattering. One of the best things is that it really is like home—I'm not a guest or a *farang*, I'm just Pi Erica (Elder Sister Erica) and I can read or write or sing or go out, or sleep, just as I please, no-one fusses. One of the hardest things to get used to is being so conspicuous—everywhere I go, in buses or in the market or walking down the street, all the kids come rushing out and say "*farang, farang!*" and laugh and try out their English (which is usually just "Hey you!" or pop songs); and if I bargain for anything in my basic Thai they (the market people) all die of shock! So it's nice to be at home and accepted, and not different.

Seniority is very important in the family and in any job, and also conservatism, though gradually more liberal ideas are coming, but change is slow and in many ways Thailand seems to have stuck in an earlier age (King Chula and his father and son were the great liberators and brought Thailand up-to-date around 1900, but it hasn't changed so radically since) i.e. men/women relationships—no Thai girl ever goes out alone at night and hardly ever anyway; and men and women never touch in public (there was a lovely cartoon in a paper showing a man and a girl sitting beside each other on a bus and being jolted up and down and obviously enjoying it!) and this is funny at university too. At a Freshmen's dinner and dance I went to it was boys dancing with boys and girls with girls, except for a few daring ones or dances where they were miles apart anyway (I danced with the music *ajarn* who is sweet)—but it's rather like being in Jane Austen's times again! American influence is around but tends to be localised in the night club area of the town and the tourist spots, which I avoid. As for Vietnam, well, it appears every day in the news but no-one seems to bother any more than in England—perhaps even less—although people are dead scared of hippies who threaten society, and communists, and things are pretty hot in the north near Laos, among mountain tribes who hate government from Bangkok, and in the south where there are quite a few infiltrators and guerilla troops—enough to cause concern here.

Everything is so different actually being on VSO from anything I imagined—so much for the tough simple life—sometimes I feel it's too cushy—a beautiful academic existence in lovely surroundings (except when I think of the really overpowering sticky heat and the mosquitoes!). Tomorrow I'm off to the real jungle (it's now the vacation) with tropical helmets and elephant guns, etc., to look for tigers and orchids with a crowd of biology students from Chula!

obituary

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In December: The Rev. Leslie H. Drage (Central), L. Lake (Central), Albert Millis (Aston Manor), Grace E. Stoner (Spalding). **In January:** Kenneth Morton (Camberwell & Dulwich), Richard E. S. Payne (Cheltenham), William E. Roberts (Mochdre). **In February:** William J. Burton (Cromer), Lily G. Howell (Gorleston), Leonard Sargent (Kennington), Phyllis M. Thomas (Merthyr Tydfil), Ivy Williams (Bargoed). **In March:** Gwendoline I. Baxter (Long Eaton), Edward W. Cuttall (Tunbridge Wells), Harold Foyle (Sanderstead), Harold V. Harper (Kidderminster), Frederick Holt (Clitheroe), Bessie L. Hughes (Hayes), Bertha E. Jarrett (Chatham), Erica Newman (Swannington), Frank V. Rogers (Kidderminster), Rupert Smith (Chalfonts).

We give thanks for their lives.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 6d. a word (minimum 6s.). *Point Three* Magazine, Toc H, 41 Trinity Square, London E.C.3, (01-709 0472)

WARDEN MANOR CALLING. There is still time to book for a holiday you will never forget at this 15th century manor house on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent. Good food, entertainments, games, excursions, barbecues or just relaxation. Bathing at nearby Warden Bay. Garage space available. Bus service direct from Sheerness station. Season from Saturday, July 4 to Saturday, September 19. Cost, £9.15s. per person per week in a twin-bedded or double bedded room, £8.15s. per person in a multiple room. Why not book now and share in the friendly atmosphere of Toc H members and friends? Write to Secretary (Warden Manor), 50 Varney Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

GUERNSEY, C.I. Good homely fare with Toc H family. H & C in rooms. Midweek bookings accepted. Terms: BB and EM £9. 9s. Od. per week. Mrs. P. Saunders, Petherton, Tertre Lane, Vale. Tel: Guernsey 44756 (STD 0481).

CORNWALL, PENTEWAN. 4-berth Caravan: from 6-9 guineas. S.A.E. Oldnall, 82 Exeter Road, Smethwick, Worcs.

GREEN SHIELD STAMPS urgently required for providing better heating for old people. Please send books or loose stamps to The Stowe Community Service, Buckingham.

B.A.O.R. Staff

We are looking for a married couple, or two friends working together, to run the canteen in the Services Club in Verden. Age 30-50. Preferably Toc H members. Apply to Eric Barrington, Commissioner, B.A.O.R., Toc H HQ., 15 Trinity Square, E.C.3.



BRUGES, BELGIUM.

Hotel Jacobs welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city. Within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of coast. Good food and comfortable accommodation in friendly atmosphere. Pleasant restaurant, bar and lounge. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Write for brochure and terms to Mr. Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Baliestraat 1, Bruges, Belgium.

COSTUME JEWELLERY ON SALE OR RETURN to churches and charities. J. Whitaker (19T), 41 Cross Street, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs., FY8 2HU.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES. Toc H Edinburgh will be at home to visiting members and friends in their rooms at 12 Newington Road, Edinburgh 9 (3 minutes from Games Village Pool) from 6 p.m. each evening from July 16 — 25, and look forward very much to meeting many of you from home and overseas. Local members will be happy to advise on, or to arrange, tours in and around the City, and give any information they can. A 'phone number for daytime enquiries: 449 3377.

YPRES. Tea Room and Patisserie, 9 Grande Place. Light meals; teas. English spoken.—VANDAELE (Toc H Builder).

ADVERTISING PENCILS, superb Ball-Pens, Combs, Brushes, etc., gold-stamped Branch name, raise funds quickly, easily. Details—Northern Novelties, Bradford 2.

PERRANPORTH, CORNWALL. Toc H chalet available for holidays. Well equipped, including bathroom, mains electricity and water: space for cars. From £7.10s. per week. Enquiries to Miss A. R. Chalmers, Cleveland, Duporth Bay, St. Austell.

"MANY THINGS"

A new 16 mm sound film, in colour, about Toc H, running for approximately 30 minutes.

Made by a professional producer who specialises in social documentaries and who, in the course of nearly 12 months' planning, research and shooting in various parts of the country, discovered Toc H in all its infinite variety.

His film presents an honest and penetrating survey of the Movement and its activities today.

It is a public relations film in the sense that it is ideally suitable for "explaining Toc H" to non-members, but it will also present new dimensions to existing members. It should be the basis of many a training weekend.

From the end of June a copy of the film will be available for hire from each Regional Office at a cost of £2.